

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee

An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Commissioners

Clark County Public Service Center

1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste #679

Vancouver, Washington

July 11, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Chair: Robert Nichols

Vice Chair: Lou Baste

Secretary: Michael Gibson

Meeting Called to order by Bob Nichols @ 1402

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8
American Legion #14
American Legion #27
American Legion #44
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Legion #189
American Legion #208
American Veterans #6
DAV Chapter #4
Korean War Vet Assoc #321
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW #12028
Vietnam Vets #512

Members at Large

PRIMARY

Jerry Keen
Jerry Keesee
Elisa Cotton
Jim Moore
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson
Dick DeWald
George Hunt
Richard Alvarez
Todd Boyd
Thomas Dombeck
Lou Baste
Jenny McCullough
Roy Billings
Ray Saranto
Greg Whitson

Kevin Lawson

SECONDARY

Jan Wojciechowski
Karla Bean
Wes Forgey
Darren Wertz
Mark Woods
Roxeanne Boose
Don Taylor
Bob Blevins
Richard Gabriel

Robert Sumril
Ron Brandon
Gary Dowler

Skip Benge
Odis Warren

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Whitley, Pete Munroe, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

David Benedetti – Partners in Careers; Denise Bender – CRMHS

Meeting Minutes: Jerry Keesee corrected the date of the Korean Ambassador of Peace Ceremony as August 4 and Jerry Keen explained the Hunting with Heroes trip is in October. Jerry Keesee motioned to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2012 meeting with the corrections. Motion seconded by Roy Billings and passed.

Veterans RFP

Samantha Whitley informed the committee that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Veterans Assistance Fund will be released on Friday, July 13. All posts along with a comprehensive list of providers in Clark County will receive notification of the release. Please feel free to forward the information on to other agencies that may be interested in applying. All applicants need to be on the master plan holders list. There is a Letter of Interest included in the RFP that agencies not on the list can use if needed. Proposals are due Friday, August 24 by 4:30pm to the Department of Purchasing located on the 6th floor of the Public Service Center. Applications received after this date and time will not be accepted. A pre-submittal meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 20 at the Center for Community Health. County staff will be available to answer any questions regarding the RFP. Any questions submitted at any other time during the release of the RFP will need to be submitted in writing to Pete Munroe or Samantha Whitley and will be posted to the website and available for all applicants to review. Once applications are received they will be checked for administrative capability by an internal County review team. Applications that pass this process may be asked to give a presentation to the selection committee in September and final recommendations to the Commissioners will be made in October. Samantha also explained that there are two applications in the RFP; one for direct services provided at an office at the Center for Community Services, the other for other veterans programs such as dental services, employment, etc.

Stand Down

Bob Nichols mentioned that the Stand Down is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1. Odis explained that there were plenty of vendor tables still available. If you know of an agency that would like to be represented at the event, have them call Odis at the Veterans Assistance Center. Odis also mentioned that they are expecting over 200 veterans at this year's Stand Down. Transportation will be available from the corner of Esther Short Park at 6th St. Transportation from the VA campus is in progress. Odis also asked the committee for more volunteers for the event.

Committee Reports

Policies and Procedures: Bob asked that Jerry Keen have the committee review the policies and procedures to see if there are ways to reduce costs to the Veterans Assistance Fund, especially in the categories of food and transportation. There was discussion regarding food boxes from food banks and local posts, getting prescriptions through the VA and what benefits widows receive. It was mentioned that Operation Homefront will pay for auto repair or the first payment on a new vehicle for veterans within two years of active duty. Carpenter's Repair also offers discounts for veterans and Clark College will do repairs for free if the person is able to leave their vehicle at the college for a couple of weeks. Samantha will set up a meeting with the Policies & Procedures Committee to review all of the services offered.

Appeals: There were no new appeals.

Contractor Reports: Samantha informed the committee that CRMHS served 105 veterans in May for a total of \$30,404 in services. There were two unclaimed veterans that received burial services. The group discussed the different burial services available through different funeral homes. It is believed that these charges are comparable to other agencies in the area. Jerry Keen offered to research if there are any laws against cremation for unclaimed veterans.

The Veterans Assistance Center served 99 veterans in May and had 771.75 volunteer hours donated.

Samantha reviewed the Free Clinic Dental Service report. Six veterans received services for a total of over \$1,425 in services. Services included twenty x-rays, nine extractions, two fillings and one restoration.

Finally, Samantha reviewed the fund balance. There is approximately \$679,000 available. This is the same as last month's report as Heidi Steen was able to get the report completed early last month.

Old Business: Samantha asked if anyone was interested in attending the SOAR Training August 23 and 24. This training is by invitation only and is aimed at training people to help others file for SSI/SSDI benefits using an expedited model. Those who are interested should contact Samantha as soon as possible.

Jerry Keesee reminded the committee that the Council General will be awarding Korean War medals at Gaiser Hall at Clark College on Saturday, August 4 starting at 1400 hours. There will be 178 veterans honored.

New Business: There was no New Business discussed.

Open Forum:

- Jerry Keen mentioned that 80 veterans and active duty military personnel are going salmon fishing on Saturday. Walmart, CMAC and Point Man Ministries have sponsored this event. He also mentioned that Hunting with Heroes is accepting applications for the event in October. There are 45 openings. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of openings, they will do a lottery system to determine who will be invited.
- CMAC is hosting a "Night of the Patriot" event at the Pearson Air Museum starting at 1600 hours the night the veterans return to town from the Hunting with Heroes event.
- Channel 2 is doing a spot on the Battle Buddies program and Jerry Keen was interviewed as part of the report. The program trains therapy dogs for veterans at no cost to the veteran.
- VetsWhoCare.org is putting together a thank you video to send to troops overseas. They will be at the 192nd Street Walmart on August 2 starting at 0900 hours.
- CCVAC Wine and Music Festival is set for July 20 and 21. It will be open from 1600 to 2200 hours on Friday and 1000 to 2200 hours on Saturday.
- Operation Homefront is conducting their annual school supply drive. Supplies will be given to children of National Guard and Reserves.
- WDVA and the NW Justice Project put together a resource book on the Basic Legal and Cultural Concepts for providers that work with veterans. Samantha has a hard copy if anyone is interested. She will email the version to the committee.
- John Lee is retiring once Governor Gregoire leaves office.
- CCVAC board meeting is tonight starting at 1630 hours.

Meeting adjourned at 1522 hours.

Next meeting: August 8, 2012 at 1400 hours.